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III. INTERNAL MIGRATION

A. Migration toward Industrial Centers

178
168 Apart from the northwestern province of Shensi, the Chinese Communists have had the best opportunity and the greatest time to develop and reorganize the provinces of North China. With the central Communist authority close at hand, all the details of administrative reorganization have been quickly disposed of and the way to industrialization and economic reconstruction has been rapidly prepared. According to China Mainland sources, recovery of industrial productivity in this region has been rapid, and the Communists have carried out a program of expansion for existing factories and the construction of new factories. The much-publicized five-year plan of Peking determines 156 industrial units for expansion and construction; a good number of them are in this region.[11] The government has been making a systematic effort to facilitate the migration of skilled and unskilled laborers and their families to these centers. Most of the immigrants are from the countryside around the industrial centers; others are from outside of this region.

B. Migration toward Large-scale Construction Sites

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166 As in the Central-South Region, in North China large-scale construction projects have been launched. The extensive flood-control projects on the Yung-ting River in Hopei Province and the

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[11] People's Handbook, 1955,

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178 Kuan-t'ing Reservoir on the same river, which is
166 reported to have been completed, have caused sizable concentrations of population at the sites of these projects. Hundreds of thousands of people are employed upon a mammoth construction program in Peking, which, when completed, will expand the city to seven times its original size. Some of these migrant workers have settled permanently in the city. This situation has led authorities in Peking to predict that Peking's population will increase to over four million at the end of the expansion program. 12/

C. Emigration from this Region to the Northeast

Mass emigration from south of the Great Wall to the northeast dates from the early 1920's. The majority of the emigrants started their journey from Hopei Province in this region and from Shantung Province in East China. Early statistics have placed the total number of Hopei and Shantung emigrants to the northeast at over five million during 1923-30. Many have adopted the northeast as their home. Between 1927 and 1930 about 1,500,000 people had permanently settled in the northeast. 13/

• [168] The Peking regime encourages this emigration. Large groups of men skilled in technical work have been sent where they are needed. Experienced

12/ Wang Tzu-ch'iang, Pei-ching [Peking], Shanghai, Hua-tung jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 1954, p. 55.

13/ Hua-pei Wu-sheng Hsin Ti-t'u [New Map of the Five Provinces of North China], Shanghai, Ya-kuang yü-ti hsüeh-she, 1950.